

*Supply—Fisheries*

shores. I have seen factory ships the like of which most members would never believe. These foreign vessels have on board office equipment that would compare favourably with that in an insurance company office. They have freezing plants, drying plants and canning plants. I even saw one ship that contained a factory to make the cans right on board. These factory ships sweep our seas like giant vacuum cleaners, taking everything there is. What do we do? We send out small boats to try to compete against these fantastic vessels.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the fault is not necessarily the minister's. I believe one of the members opposite pointed out that this department seems to be the orphan of all our government departments. It should not be so; it should be the most important department. The Department of Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture are both great departments. The fault is largely ours. We seem to be satisfied with having a mediocre fishing industry. We cannot imagine that we can do better. It is up to the minister, up to the members, to take the lead and convince ourselves that we shall have the greatest fishing industry in the world. We must convince ourselves that we shall harvest more fish and have a more efficient industry than any other nation in the world. We shall pay the fishermen the highest rates. We have to convince ourselves of these things. Is there any reason why we cannot do this? Of course we can. However, without that conviction, without this minister and this department taking the lead in a vigorous, enthusiastic approach toward this industry, we will get nowhere. We will sit here with this department as an orphan of all departments.

I would just remind the minister that it was he who coined the word "nautilize". I hope he continues with that vision. We should put every effort, all the money that is needed, all the research that is needed, all the resources at our command, into developing this fishing industry into the greatest fishing industry in the world.

**Mr. Rapp:** Mr. Chairman, I am sure the Minister of Fisheries will be surprised to see a member from an inland province like Saskatchewan rising to speak on these estimates. In my area fishing is only conducted in some of the lakes and the biggest one we have out there is lac La Ronge in which we fish for trout. This is good for the tourist industry.

However, my reason for rising at this time is that, being so far from the sea, we are

not really given an opportunity to enjoy delicious salt water fish. I should like for this reason to bring to the attention of the minister the fact that there should be more publicity in these inland provinces with regard to salt water fish. I think the fishing industry would benefit to a large extent and the consumers would benefit by enjoying salt water fish. I do not mean the minister should think of commercial displays, but we have the C.B.C. and I am sure the C.B.C. could give information concerning the preparation of some of these fish dishes. If this were done I am sure the people in these areas would benefit greatly from it.

I have been told, as the previous speaker pointed out, that our fishermen are in a desperate position so far as their incomes are concerned, but I believe if the minister pays attention to what I have said, and follows my recommendation, our fishermen will be in a better position.

**Mr. Carter:** Mr. Chairman, for over 450 years the fishing industry was the mainstay of the economy of my province, Newfoundland, and though in recent years it has been surpassed in dollar value by the paper industry and some mining enterprises it is still one of the most important factors in the provincial economy, and from the standpoint of the number of people employed it is the most important.

Some 75 to 80 per cent of my constituents depend upon the fishing industry for their livelihood, and I would be very remiss in my duty if I did not stand in my place today and make a few observations about it. Yesterday the minister referred to the poor fishery Newfoundland has had this year. He expressed the hope that the fall fishery would compensate for it somewhat, and that this year's increased prices would make up for the loss of production. I think we must keep in mind that not only is the fishery poor this year but it was poor last year and the year before that. As a matter of fact we have had poor fisheries for the last three years.

While it is true that the price of fish is higher than ever, due to the effect of supply and demand, this year's price is not so much greater than last year's, and a 10 per cent increase in price cannot compensate for a 50 or 60 per cent fall in production, which is the case in many parts of my riding. Furthermore, under the system we have of providing stamps to fishermen for unemployment benefits, because the amount of fish caught this year is so small this will prevent many fishermen from qualifying for unemployment benefits